

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Drawings

Figs. 1 and 6 are objected to. In response, Figs. 1 and 6 are amended as suggested in the Action. In Fig. 1, objects 10-50 are shown in outline form to allow electronic reproduction and, in Fig. 6, the legend --Prior Art-- is added. Replacement sheets incorporating these amendments and annotated sheets showing changes are enclosed with this amendment.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 were presented. Claims 17-20, which are withdrawn from consideration as a previous restriction requirement and election, are canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 9, 15 and 16 are also canceled, without prejudice, and claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 13 are amended. Thus, claims 1, 3-8 and 10-14 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 2, and claim 2 is canceled; claim 3 is amended to include the limitations of claim 1; claim 8 is amended to include the limitations of claim 9, and claim 9 is canceled; and claim 10 is amended to include the limitations of claim 8. Thus, applicant submits that claims 1, 3, 8 and 10 are now in allowable form. Claims 4-7 and 11-14 depend from, respectively, claims 1 and 8 and are similarly allowable.

Claim Objections

The Action objects to claims 6 and 13 and asserts that the limitation "such as a bar code" is not clearly limiting. In response, claims 6 and 13 are amended to recite "including a bar code".

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(e)

Appl. No. 10/677,755
Amdt. dated August 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2005

Atty. Ref. 81754.0099
Customer No. 26021

Claims 1, 4-8 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Maeda et al. (US 6,456,951). In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 8, discussed above, claims 1, 4-8 and 11-14 are now in allowable form. Claims 15 and 16 are canceled, without prejudice.

Other Amendments

Minor grammatical errors were noted and corrected in claims 5 and 8.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after consideration of this response. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: August 11, 2005

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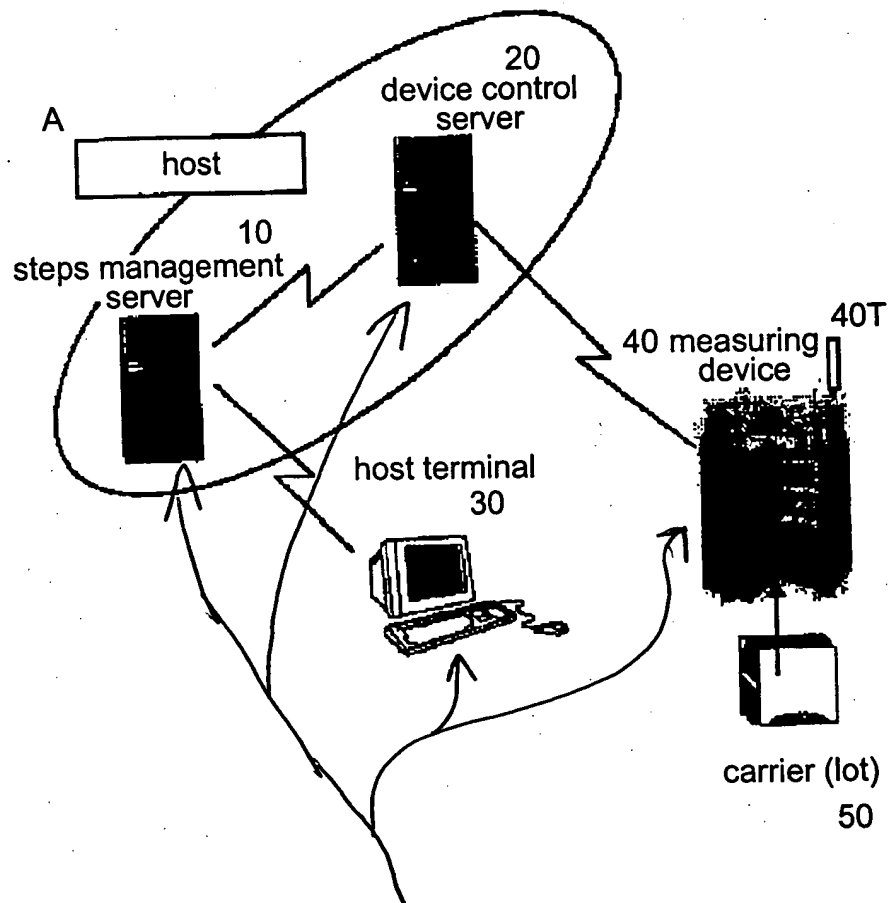
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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached two sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 6. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 6, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 6. In Fig. 1, objects 10-50 are shown in outline form to allow electronic reproduction. In Fig. 6, the legend --Prior Art—is added.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (2)
 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (2)

◆ A drawing showing the interactive relation in control between a host "A" and a device



redrawn in clean
reproducible form

FIG. 1

operational procedures in a conventional inspection process

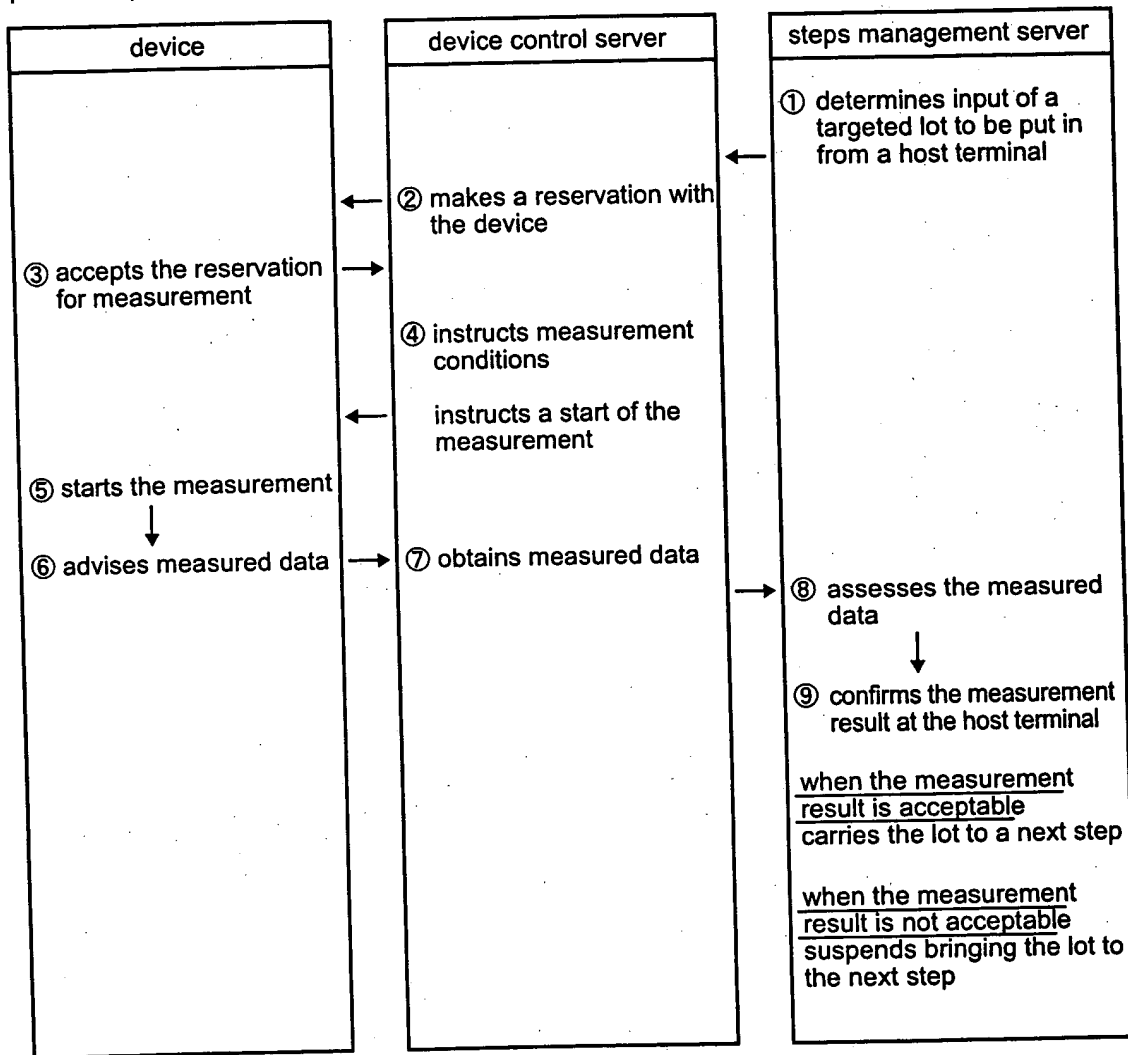


FIG. 6
"Prior Art"